

LIVING

Section B

Thursday, February 26, 2004
Carroll County News Leader McKenzie, Tennessee

KEEP KIDS



DISCUSSING D.A.R.E.

- Three visitors from the United Kingdom exchanged ideas with their American counterparts during a Feb. 9-13 Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.) at Paris Landing State Park Inn. The British visitors, Harry Player (left), Peter Jackson (third from left), and Ian Lynam (right), talk with Sgt. Jackie Sykes (second from left), who is the D.A.R.E. officer for the McKenzie Police Department and who is also the president of the Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Association.

IGC

Trooper Wayne Woodard conducts a training session.



Sgt. Leonard Moudy of the THP speaks at a training session.



British Visitors Exchange D.A.R.E. Ideas

By SHIRLEY NANNEY
Editor

Great Britain has drug problems similar to the United States.

Three visitors from the London area were among the trainees who took part in a Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.) at Paris Landing Inn State Park Inn Feb. 9 - 13.

Peter Jackson, a retiree of the City of London Police; Harry Player, a constable for the City of London Police; and Ian Lynam, a college lecturer with West Nottinghamshire College in Mansfield; were in the United States to exchange ideas with their American counterparts on ways to educate youths to resist drugs. All three are involved in the D.A.R.E. Program in the United Kingdom.

"Drugs are a worldwide problem," said Player. "We came to learn new ideas to take back with us to help combat the problem."

Interacting with each other during the session was invaluable in helping the officers learn from each other, he mentioned.

The training sessions lasted from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each day and were a partnership between the Tennessee Highway Patrol Department's Training Center, Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Association and the D.A.R.E. officers of Carroll County. At least an hour's worth of homework was given each night.

There were two segments of the training center sessions — one geared toward the new D.A.R.E. Middle School Program and the other toward a D.A.R.E. Par-

ent Program that educates parents on how to handle various teenage situations. Two and a half days of training were devoted to each segment.

Sgt. Jackie Sykes, the D.A.R.E. officer for the McKenzie Police Department, is president of the Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Association and served as a member of the training staff.

"These training sessions helped officers realize the situations that children face in schools and in their social climate through music and videos," said Sykes.

After receiving the training, officers will set up drug awareness programs through school, church and social organizations in their own communities to educate parents on how to better deal with the complexities of life that their children face each day.

Sgt. Leonard Moudy of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, who serves as D.A.R.E. coordinator for the state, and one of the seminar training officers, said that the community sessions are not geared to teach parenting.

"The awareness programs for parents offer suggestions on how they can help their children cope and how they can protect them from violence," said Moudy.

The D.A.R.E. Program in Tennessee began around 1990 and is taught to 55,000 fifth and sixth graders annually during a ten week program where the danger of drugs are stressed, and students are urged to live a drug-free life. The program ends with a graduation program where students receive special recognition and prizes.

Now plans are to take the D.A.R.E. Program a step further into the seventh grade.

"We teach the students that you

don't have to give in to drugs and also ways to avoid temptation," said Sykes, who said he is already taking the program into the seventh and eighth grades in the McKenzie School System.

The D.A.R.E. Program is implemented and taught much the same way in Great Britain as it is in America, according to Lynam.

"They're quite similar because you are dealing with kids who can become involved with drugs," he said.

The state's D.A.R.E. training center has international recognition. In March, a training seminar will be conducted in Curacao, an island near Venezuela. Sykes and Moudy will be among the trainers.

"It has been found that marijuana, alcohol and tobacco are problems among teenagers," said Sykes. "But alcohol is the main one."

Player said London's local government and council are anxious to introduce parents to some drug training.

Children in Great Britain start on drugs at a similar age as those in America and are greatly influenced by T.V. and movies.

"We adopt it to the culture of the United Kingdom," said Jackson.

He noted that 10 lessons are conducted in the new elementary school program, and ten in the new middle school and five in the parenting program.

This is not the first time the three have received training in the United States. In 1997 they attended a training session in Los Angeles and a middle school training seminar in Oregon in 2001.

The trio will first teach the parenting program when they return to their country.

They speak highly of the American reception they received during their stay at the Paris Inn.

"We have been made very welcome

by our American hosts," said Lynam. "They have been wonderful."

Sykes said he can hardly wait to talk to students in the McKenzie D.A.R.E. program and tell them what he learned from the United Kingdom guests.

But their exchange of ideas won't stop with the training sessions as they plan to communicate through E-mails.

During one of the class sessions, attendees said they had learned very important information on how to handle different situations that would be most helpful to pass on to parents.

"We learned that communication between parents and their children is of utmost importance," said deputy Ted Byrd of the Rhea County Sheriff's Department. "Parents are looking for information and they can now take a class."

Besides Moudy and Sykes, members of the training staff for the week were Lesia Martin of Pickett County Schools, Trooper Jerry Duncan of Manchester, Trooper John Marvin of Friendship and Trooper Wayne Woodard of Jackson.

Attending the classes besides the three United Kingdom visitors and deputy Byrd were Patrolman Clint Doss and GDE Glenwood White, both of the Knox County Sheriff's Department; SRO Michael Kelly of the Cleveland Police Department; Deputy Carol Mathis of the Stewart County Sheriff's Department; Investigator Becky Keith of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department; Officer Christy Pace of the Palos Heights, Ill. Police Department; Patrolman Jerry Chaney, Christopher Harris and Officer Amy Cassidy, of the Murfreesboro Police Department; Deputy Randal Grantham of the Hardeman County Sheriff's Department; and Patrolman Tina Jack of the Lawrenceburg Police Department.

"This has been a great session, especially since we had the three visitors from Great Britain with us," said Sykes. "Paris Landing Inn did an outstanding job in hosting it."

D.A.R.E.
Drug Abuse Resistance Education

OFF DRUGS